



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Event Descriptions

*Events marked with an asterisk require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

Unless otherwise stated, programs begin at the visitor center.

HUNTING occurs on the refuge throughout October, November, and December. Trails may be closed and gunshots are likely to be heard. DO NOT BE ALARMED.

BLUE GOOSE BUS TOUR

Join a ranger and enjoy access to closed areas of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

OTTAWA TRAM TOUR

Enjoy searching for wildlife on an open air tram tour of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

NATURE TOTS

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult for nature crafts, stories, and outdoor fun!

SWAMPERS

Children ages 6-12 are invited to join a refuge ranger for a swampin' good time! Topics vary each month.

CARS FOR CRITTERS CAR SHOW

Sponsored by Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association, this car show raises funds for wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education. DJ Cruisin Zeake, Back to the Wild, great food, and marsh tours are just part of the fun!

HIKE THE DIKES

"Hike the Dikes" is a cooperative program with Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Attend three hikes and earn a hiking stick! *Meet at the Magee Marsh Sportsman's Migratory Bird Center.*

STEWARDSHIP DAYS

Learn about the refuge while lending a hand to improve it. Stewardship projects include trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects.

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEYS

Join a refuge volunteer and become a citizen scientist the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. *Meet at the trailhead parking area.*

BIG SIT

Celebrate Refuge Week with manager Jason Lewis for his annual BIG SIT at the mouth of Crane Creek along the Estuary Trail. Park at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

SELF-GUIDED AUTO TOUR

Enjoy the refuge from the comfort of your car! The 7 mile route departs from the visitor center parking lot. Gates open at 8:00 am and close at 4:00 pm.

15th ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST DISPLAY

Enjoy the splendor of your federal lands through this annual photo contest display. Categories include Birds, Wildlife, Landscapes, and People. Contest entry forms available at the visitor center.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate the holiday season while enjoying a warm fire, festive music, kids crafts, and good company. Enter to win a gift basket too!

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING WORKSHOP

This event is geared for the new waterfowl hunter. Learn about waterfowl ID, decoy setups, blinds, boats, and cooking. Registration forms are available at the visitor center and on our website.

CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:
October 4, 5, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31
November 1, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26
ESTUARY TRAIL CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER ARCHERY HUNT

September 29—October 3, October 6—10,
December 8—12, December 15—19
SOME REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER GUN HUNT

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:
November 22, 23 & December 1-5
ALL REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER HUNT PREVIEW DAY

Prepare for a successful hunt by scoping out your hunting unit ahead of time.



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Calendar of Events September—December, 2014

Sunday, September 7

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Saturday, September 13

9am— Hike the Dikes

Saturday, September 20

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Sunday, September 21

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Sunday, September 28

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

9am-2pm— Ottawa Tram Tours

9am-3pm— Cars for Critters Car Show

Saturday, October 4

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

October 5—18

9am-4pm— 15th Annual Photo Contest Display

Sunday, October 5

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

12pm— Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop*

Thursday, October 9

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, October 11

10am-12pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

1pm-3pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

Sunday, October 12

Sunrise-3pm— Big Sit

Monday, October 13

Columbus Day: Visitor Center Closed

Sunday, October 19

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Thursday, October 23

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, October 25

9:30am-12pm— Stewardship Days

Sunday, October 26

10am-12pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

1pm-3pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

Saturday, November 1

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, November 2

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Saturday, November 8

9am-2pm— Controlled Deer Hunt Preview Day

Tuesday, November 11

Veterans Day: Visitor Center Closed

Saturday, November 15

9:30am-12pm— Stewardship Days

Sunday, November 16

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Thursday, November 20

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

1pm-4pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Wednesday, November 26

Visitor Center Closes at Noon

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving: Visitor Center Closed

Saturday, December 6

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, December 7

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

12pm-4pm— Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 20

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Sunday, December 21

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Wednesday, December 24

Visitor Center Closes at Noon

Thursday, December 25

Christmas: Visitor Center Closed

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day: Visitor Center Closed



Members Only Events:

Saturday, November 8

9:30am-12pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*
(to recently acquired property)

Membership information is available at the visitor center information desk.